

SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY – REPORT TO SENATE OCTOBER 2017

1. Development of the Malta MB BS Programme

At the time of writing, 44 students have been recruited to the Malta MBBS programme, many of whom are in receipt of a competitive bursary package. The main teaching campus is scheduled for completion in August 2018, with student accommodation and The Sir Michelangelo Refalo Sixth Form building now complete and populated.

2. Undergraduate recruitment

Building on an exceptionally strong performance in the league tables and NSS for Medicine for 2017/18, recruitment to SMD medicine programmes has been strong for the current academic year, with all available places filled in preclinical medicine and the graduate entry programme. The NSS results for dentistry were not as good as last year and work is underway to address the issues raised by students. Undergraduate Dental recruitment has remained on track and all places have been filled. Recruitment to the majority of non-clinical undergraduate programmes has significantly exceeded target.

3. International recruitment

SMD has been resilient in its international recruitment in what has become an increasingly competitive and challenging overseas market. International recruitment to preclinical medicine and dentistry has exceeded target, as has recruitment to non-clinical undergraduate programmes.

4. Research funding.

Following a consistently strong performance in research grant application success and funding, £11.7 million was awarded to SMD in period 12 (1st July – 31st July). Indicative awards include:

- Wolfson: *Action on Salt (China) Global Health Research Unit*. £6.6 million NIHR;
- BCI: *Definition and Functional Characterisation of Follicular Lymphoma-propagating cell populations*. £1.4million, CRUK;
- BCI: *Improving outcome for patients with poor risk acute myeloid leukaemia*. £1.1 million, CRUK.

5. Athena Swan

The drafting of the final submission for the Athena Swan Silver Award is now well under way. Within the School, Athena Swan activity is highly visible following a dedicated communications plan to celebrate successful women within SMD, whilst a graduate trainee will be embedded within the VP Health office later this academic year to undertake work on equality within the School.

6. Estates Update

Abernethy 3rd Floor: work is well under way on the Catalyst bid development on 1/3 of the floor, with completion on track for May 2018.

Neuron pod: work is progressing to completion in July 2018.

Cryogenics Facility at Charterhouse: this was completed in September 2017.

7. Staff Recruitment

Recruitment is now under way for the appointment of the Dean of the Institute of Dentistry. The calibre of applicants has been very strong, and there is every confidence that an appointment will be made.

8. Staff performance

SMD staff have had some individual successes in both teaching and research over the last two months:

- Professor Ania Korszun, from the Wolfson Institute of Preventive Medicine, has been awarded a National Teaching Fellowship by the Higher Education Academy;
- Professor Jack Cuzick, also of the Wolfson Institute, has been granted a Lifetime Achievement Award by Cancer Research UK in recognition of his sustained research into cancer prevention and detection;
- Four of our clinical academics – Jack Cuzick, Mark Caulfield, Panos Deloukas, and Patricia Munroe – have been named as amongst the top 1% most highly cited researchers in the world.